



# imPULSE

*A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission* ISSUE 45 • MARCH 2016

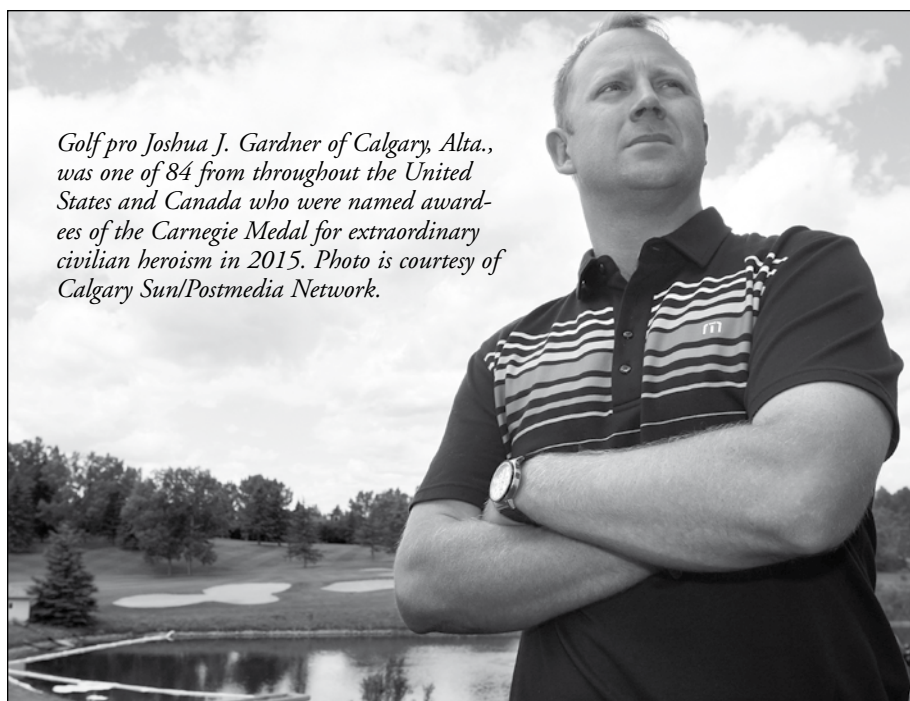


## HEROIC MOUNTIE

Police, firefighters, and others charged with the safety of the general public are generally exempt from recognition by the Carnegie Hero Fund—unless their actions are decidedly “above and beyond” the call of duty.

Such was the case of **Fraser A. Potts**, who as a constable for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) out of its Gypsumville, Man., detachment, helped to save a woman from drowning under extreme circumstances in 2013. In a suicide attempt, the woman drove her car into a fast-flowing river at Fairford, Man., and was swept away by the current. Called to the scene, Potts, then 28, ran along the bank and then plunged into the 37-degree water for the woman. The current carried them to a point almost a mile from where the woman entered the river before they were rescued by a boat manned by Potts’s partner and others. Falling to hypothermia, Potts could barely move.

Now an officer with the Ottawa, Ont., Police Service, Potts, of Limoges, Ont., was given an RCMP commissioner’s commendation for “selflessly expos(ing) himself to imminent, grievous bodily harm and death” under conditions that “far exceed the parameters of routine police work,” and in May of last year he received a Medal of Bravery from the Governor General of Canada. In December he was awarded the Carnegie Medal, which was given also to 23 others from throughout the United States and Canada. Details of the awardees’ acts are on pages 8-12.



*Golf pro Joshua J. Gardner of Calgary, Alta., was one of 84 from throughout the United States and Canada who were named award-ees of the Carnegie Medal for extraordinary civilian heroism in 2015. Photo is courtesy of Calgary Sun/Postmedia Network.*

## 2015 in review: Hero Fund attested to ‘genuine article’ of modern heroism

*By Sybil P. Veeder, Ph.D., Chair, Executive Committee  
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission*

When six men, including three Americans, subdued an armed assailant aboard a Paris-bound train last August, *The Wall Street Journal* concluded, “The six who saved the day perfectly represent the modern face of heroism as it came to fore in the 20th century: In a situation of extreme danger, they chose to expose themselves to additional risk, thereby saving the lives of others.”

The Commission has known all along that taking on risk—not just *additional* risk, as stated above—is what makes a hero. “Nowadays,” the article continued, “the word ‘heroism’ is often used as a synonym for everyday inspiring behavior, or steeliness despite suffering, or selfless generosity or any number of exemplary actions. The actions of these six men, however, were the genuine, life-risking article.”

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BOARD NOTES

HEROES' ACTIONS ULTIMATE  
IN OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES

By Mark Laskow, Chair  
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



Who needs these heroes, the men and women who earned the Carnegie Medal? Those they rescued did, of course, but isn't the idea of a heroic volunteer rescuer a bit dated?

No. We all need these heroes, we need them badly, and we need them now more than ever.

America (and, similarly, Canada) is unique among major nations in that it is not a "tribe" unifying around blood ties, but rather around shared ideas and values. To be German, French, or Finnish says something not just about nationality but also something about race. To be an American, even the most "real," dyed-in-the wool patriotic American, says nothing at all about race. America was founded on ideas, ones articulated in the Declaration of Independence, and those ideas are what bind us today. Abraham Lincoln reflected on this in his debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858, when he spoke of the founders and the Declaration of Independence and the ideas behind it:

"[The founders] were iron men, they fought for the principle that they were contending for; and we understood that by what they then did it has followed that the degree of prosperity that we now enjoy has come to us. ...

"We have besides these men—descended by blood from our ancestors—among us perhaps half our people who are not descendants at all of these men, they are men who have come from Europe—German, Irish, French and Scandinavian—men that have come from Europe themselves, or whose ancestors have come hither and settled here, finding themselves our equals in all things. If they look back through this history to trace their connection with those days by blood, they find they have none, they cannot carry themselves back into that glorious epoch and make themselves feel that they are part of us, but when they look through that old Declaration of Independence they find that those old men say that 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,' and then they feel that that moral sentiment taught in that day evidences their relation to those men, that it is the father of all moral principle in them, and that they have a right

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2015 in review

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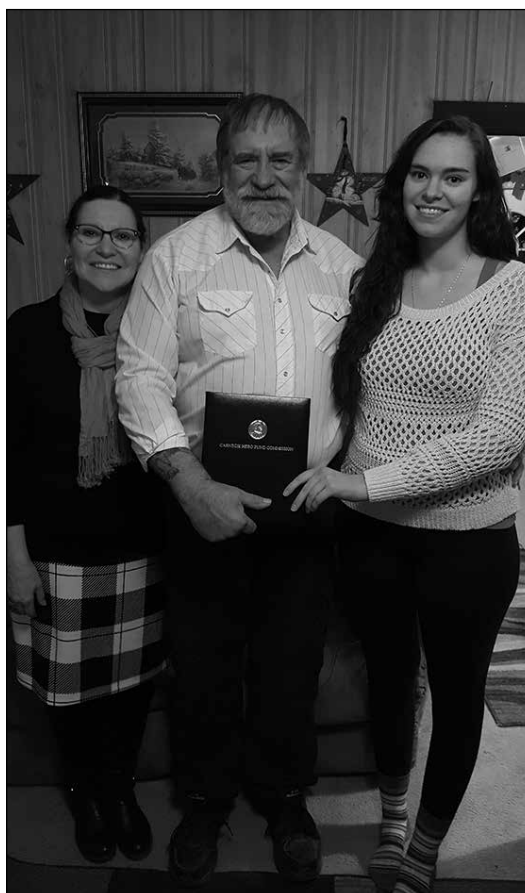
The *genuine article* is what engaged the Commission in 2015 as it has for the past 112 years, or since Andrew Carnegie's charge: *Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life, the Fund applies.* Through the work of the Executive Committee, the Fund "applied" in the naming of 84 new awardees of the Carnegie Medal, as taken from the 829 acts of heroism reviewed by staff. Benefits, in the form of scholarships and beneficiary payments, were provided in more than 100 other cases that were previously awarded. In short, we have successfully concluded another year of fulfilling Mr. Carnegie's mandate, and we have done so with decided commitment.

Awardees

The year's heroes represented a broad geographic range, with the 76 U.S. awardees coming from 28 states and the eight Canadians from four of that country's provinces and territories. States claiming the most heroes were New York (10), Florida (seven), and Oregon and California (five each), with Ontario claiming five and Manitoba, British Columbia, and Alberta one each. At 9.5% of the total, the number of Canadians awarded in 2015 was slightly higher than the historical ratio of 7.7% (or 759 of 9,821 awardees over the life of the Fund). Likewise, the year's ratio of female awardees—12% of the total, or 10—was slightly higher than the historical ratio of 8.9%.

By age, seven of the heroes were under 20, with the youngest at 13: **Robert A. Pritchard, Jr.**, of Jacksonville, Fla., saved a six-year-old girl from a tragic mobile home fire that claimed the lives of four of her family members. The oldest heroes were a pair of septuagenarians, each 72: **Clifford A. Wright** of Sarasota, Fla., saved two people from drowning in a submerging sport utility vehicle, and **Helen Goulet** of Courtenay, B.C., saved her 89-year-old friend from a house fire. Seven of the other awardees were also in their teens; 18 in their 20s; 21 in their 30s; 19 in their 40s; 10 in their 50s; and seven were in their 60s.

Extraordinary risk to life is present in all of the cases—it is the primary requirement for being awarded the medal—and in 12 of them, or 14.3% of the total (the historical ratio is 20.5%), the rescuer did not survive. Posthumous recognition of the awardee appears to be welcome. **Peter Todd Radke** died at 43, leaving four dependent children, while attempting to save a girl from drowning. His widow wrote: "I am blown away by Mr. Carnegie's generosity throughout the years in



The Gary Olson Family of Jefferson, S.D., acted together in saving a woman under assault, and for their heroism they received a Carnegie Medal last year. Gary confronted the assailant as his wife Mary and their daughter Shelby sped her away from the scene. The assailant gave chase, shooting at the Olsons' vehicle and wounding Shelby. (Further details are on page 8-9.)

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## 2015 in review

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taking care of heroes' families." **Wayne L. Hoffman** died, also attempting to save a stranger from drowning. His widow told a reporter that the Carnegie Medal sums up exactly the kind of man he was: "He always knew right from wrong, and he always went for the right."

**Tou Hu Vang** died at 21 attempting to save his nephew from drowning, and his parents were profuse with thanks for his recognition: "Your encouragement and support has moved us and touched our hearts in a certain way that no word in mankind's language can possibly describe."

One of the awards was not readily classifiable, as it was given to three recipients, each a member of the same family.

**Gary and Mary Olson** of Jefferson, S.D., were en route to the movies with their daughter, **Shelby**, when they were stopped by a woman whose husband was threatening her with a pistol. As they acted together in securing the woman's safety, the Committee felt it appropriate to issue one medal to the family. Most recently one medal was given to a couple from Ontario, **Neil A. and Anna G. Swayze** of Renfrew, who combined efforts to pull a man from his burning car in 1976.

The 31 water-related acts, including ice rescues, were the most numerous by category, as is generally the case. Fire-related acts were next at 27, with 14 rescues from burning buildings made or attempted and 13 from burning vehicles. Rescues from human assault numbered 11, followed by animal attack, seven; moving vehicle, four; submerging vehicle, two, and elevation and suffocation, one each. The latter was unusual, involving a 20-year-old farmhand, **Michael D. Bates**, who helped to save his grandfather from suffocating in settling corn kernels in a grain bin. A 275-pound polar bear and a 12-foot-long (estimated) tiger shark figured in the animal attacks, the former bested by 69-year-old **William Ayotte** of Churchill, Man., and the latter by **Brian Wargo** of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. "Its intent was to eat my friend right in front of me, and I wasn't going to let that happen," Mr. Wargo said.

### Outreach

Presentations of the medal were made in several cases, by Douglas R. Chambers, director of external affairs, and those past awardees who have volunteered their services in a relatively new "awardee-to-awardee" initiative. One such presenter is 2012 awardee **John P. Williams**, a sheriff's deputy who has personally delivered six medals to heroes within a fair distance of his La Crosse, Wis., home. Williams was a guest of the Hero Fund at the Committee's December meeting so that his efforts could be formally acknowledged. Chambers himself made presentations in Illinois, California, and Michigan. Other outreach activities developed during the year included social media representation, with case investigator Julia Panian overseeing



*Mark Laskow, right, Commission Chair, gave 2012 Carnegie Medal awardee John P. Williams of La Crosse, Wis., a commemorative medal at the Commission's December meeting to show appreciation for Williams's volunteer work.*

### BOARD NOTES

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to claim it as though they were blood of the blood, and flesh of the flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration [loud and long continued applause], and so they are."

The ideas of the Declaration of Independence created and sustain a nation of tremendous ethnic diversity. What gave those ideas power and reality, though, were the sacrifices Americans undertook to carry them into action, from the War of Independence to the Civil War to the civil rights movement of the '60s. At the individual level, the rescues performed by our heroes exemplify two foundational beliefs from the Declaration, i.e., that all men are created equal and that we have created this country as a voluntary community.

Each of our heroes saw someone in peril and in the instant recognized that the two of them shared an equal claim on life. Each hero then acted voluntarily to share that peril. One in five of them died in the attempt. They put their own lives at risk to rescue strangers—they are mostly strangers—who are no part of their own family or "tribe." Their rescues offered only risk, with no benefit to themselves or their kin. Their actions were the ultimate demonstration that all men, family, friends, and strangers alike are equally entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

America has been good (if not perfect) at immigration, and that is one of our relative strengths in the world today. Given our current total fertility rate, we have to be. We have been as good as any country in the world at welcoming strangers to our cultures and values, even when many kept ties to their old culture as well. (My own grandfather was born in this country and fought with Pershing on the Mexican border, but that man could polka!) Lately, our ability to assimilate newcomers has come under pressure on two fronts. First, our immigrants are more diverse. Lincoln spoke of German, Irish, French, and Scandinavians. That's what diversity looked like in 1858. Today we are receiving many people from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, representing very different cultures. When we introduce them to our culture, we have more explaining to do. Second, there is a debate within the country as to whether our culture and values are even worth "selling" to immigrants.

It's fine, I guess, for politicians, pundits, and academics to debate the value of our traditional culture and values. Who knows what immigrants make of that? But they cannot help but notice the way that Americans help each other and do so across ethnic, religious, and social lines. Americans of great and ordinary wealth give prodigiously to help others: The Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the United Negro College Fund, or the Jimmy Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. And

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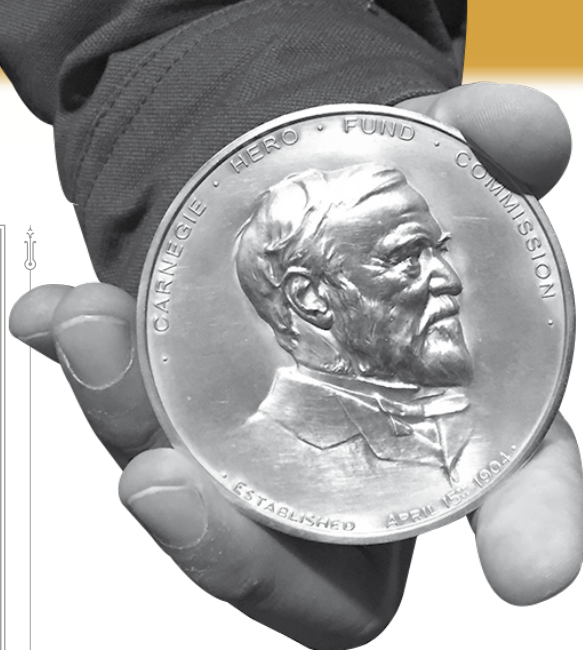
## HERO'S MONUMENT RESTORED

With some *investigating* by historian Ken Johnson of Langley, B.C., *initiative* by dedicated cemetery leadhand Shawn Flint of Thunder Bay, Ont., *elbow grease* by Lakehead Monument Ltd. of Thunder Bay, and *financial support* from Mountain View Cemetery, which is owned by the city of Thunder Bay, the grave stone of 1936 Carnegie Medal awardee **Dmetrie Benuik** has gotten the T.L.C. that a hero deserves.

Restoration of the monument was completed last year with the placement of one of the Hero Fund's bronze markers that are made available to the families of deceased awardees (see back page). Before and after photos are below.

The initiative was started in the summer of 2014 by Johnson, who was researching the event for which Benuik and a co-rescuer, **Harold Clayton Gabourie**, were cited by the Commission. He was able to locate Benuik's grave in Mountain View Cemetery and then engaged the services of Flint, cemetery employee, who oversaw the restoration. An interesting find along the way was Flint's discovery of a Benuik relative, William Skrepichuk of Thunder Bay, whose father was Benuik's cousin. A historian like Johnson, Skrepichuk remembered visiting the grave with his father when he was young.

Benuik and Gabourie were cited by the Hero Fund for saving a coworker from suffocating in a nickel mine in Falconbridge, Ont., in early 1936. Gabourie died a day after the rescue of its ill effects, and Benuik was killed in another mining accident later that year, just two weeks before the medals were awarded.



## 2015 in review

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our Facebook page and late in the year starting a Twitter account to tweet Hero Fund news. Adept at such things, she has largely taken over the website, and to it she has added a Tumblr application, on which is posted selected media mention of the Commission and its awardees in something like an electronic scrapbook.

### Grants

Committee oversight extends to the payment of monetary grants, or a) funds given to each new awardee, b) continuing monthly grants to beneficiaries, and c) scholarships. The year saw an increase in the initial hero grant, to \$6,000; actually, the grant was *restored* to that level, having been decreased in the wake of the recent recession. Beneficiary grants, given to the dependents of 62 posthumous awardees, totaled \$295,855 in 2015, and scholarship giving of \$204,527 in 2015 went to 36 students. Scholarships, available to pre-retirement awardees and the dependents of posthumous and disabled awardees, are given on the basis of need, and often in the acknowledgement is the sentiment that attaining the schooling would be impossible without the Commission's assistance. "I am really getting a great college experience and it is all due to the Carnegie Hero Fund."—Michael Thanos, son of a posthumous awardee.

### Worldwide

Efforts at joining the remaining nine of Carnegie's original 11 hero funds into a cohesive unit—the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee—progressed during the year, culminating with a meeting of representatives of eight of the funds in New York in October during the biennial presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. Commission Chair Mark Laskow led the meeting, outlining broad goals to be taken to insure the continuity of the funds and their work. Eight Executive Committee members attended the meeting, thus having the opportunity to get to know their overseas counterparts. Legwork for the meeting was carried out earlier in the year by Laskow and Walter F. Rutkowski, who visited with the leaders of the funds in Norway and Denmark in May. We hope to continue the overall momentum.

### At home

The Committee was strengthened by the addition of Evan S. Frazier of Highmark Health and Eric P. Zahren of the U.S. Secret Service, elected to the board in September; they present impressive credentials and have shown respect for the Commission's work. At staff level, a new case investigator, Chris Foreman, was hired. Service anniversaries were marked during the year: Myrna J. Braun joined the Hero Fund 60 years ago and was honored at the Annual Meeting in June for her loyalty and efficiency; Rutkowski completed 40 years; Jeffrey A. Dooley passed the 30-year mark, the last 25 as investigations manager; and Melissa A. McLaughlin completed 10 years as investigator. Our staff is small (seven full time and three part time), but they reflect an admirable degree of dedication and expertise. We salute them for their fine efforts. I would also like to mention the Committee's work and am proud of all we do. I thank everyone for their respective roles and enthusiasm. ☒



*Dr. Veeder joined the Commission in 1992 and has chaired its Executive Committee for the past 14 years.*



## Hometown puts Carnegie Medal awardee in large mural depicting notable natives

Decades after **Nazareth A. Tomasetti** rescued a man from a cave-in during a street-excavation project, his portrait adorns a five-story-tall building in his longtime home of Pittston, Pa. Tomasetti, a 1953 recipient of the Carnegie Medal, is one of 57 celebrated Pittston residents who were painted last year in “Inspiration Mural” on the side of a historic building on the city’s Main Street.



“Inspiration Mural” on the side of the New Rose Hotel building, downtown Pittston, Pa., features 57 notables from the city.



Detail of mural containing likeness of Carnegie Medal awardee Nazareth A. Tomasetti at right.

beautification project, collecting 100 nominations. One of Tomasetti’s five grandchildren, Tara Smith of Clarks Green, Pa., suggested him. City officials dedicated the mural last September. “It’s a magnificent piece of art,” said Rose Randazzo, the Main Street manager in Pittston, a city of 7,700 located in the Wyoming Valley of north-eastern Pennsylvania.

The muralist, Michael Pilato, completed similar projects in other communities, including one in State College, Pa., the home of Penn State University. Pilato said all of his murals are called “Inspiration” since they include people who inspire others.

The Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce organized the

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### TO THE HERO FUND

#### RENEWED PRIDE

I have toiled over how to express my family’s gratitude to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. The more I read of Mr. Andrew Carnegie’s mission and accounts of other heroes makes mere words of gratitude sound trite. We feel renewed, immense pride in Dad’s act of heroism and continue to share the remarkable mission and history of the Hero Fund and Dad’s story with friends and family.

Kathy Frey, Highland, Ill.

Frey’s father, **Raymond F. Gooch**, was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1941 for helping to save three friends from drowning in the Ohio River at Cypress, Ind., on Nov. 3, 1940. Gooch died last September at age 93.

#### LIKES SITE

I love your website and regularly read about the heroes you honor. Their stories make the hair on the back of my neck stand up without fail. Kudos to you for honoring everyday people who do extraordinary things, most of the time for complete strangers. Thank you for providing such an awesome website.

Rex Larson, Fontana, Calif.

#### THANK YOU

....to the following for recent financial contributions to the Hero Fund: **Marguerite H. Martin** of Englewood, Colo., whose donation was made in memory of her father, Thomas J. Hilliard, Jr., a 36-year member of the Commission who died last year at age 94; **Thomas J. Humes** of Arlington, Va., whose donation was also made in memory of Mr. Hilliard, his grandfather; and **Lana B. Pentore** of Farmington, Conn., whose grandfather and uncle, **George A. and Harry D. Bradley**, were posthumous awardees of the Carnegie Medal in 1924.

#### BOARD NOTES

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at the individual level, they see our heroes. They see an **A.R. Johnson** rescue Wen Ting Huang from assault by an eight-inch meat cleaver. They see an African American **Wesley James Autrey** shield Cameron P. Holoopeter beneath an onrushing New York City subway train. They see a **Timothy E. Mosher** rescue Mana Mashoon from a knife attack. The values of heroism and altruism that shine through these acts are important threads in the fabric of our culture.



## MEASURE OF HIS HEART

Carnegie Medal recipient and Lighthouse Project founder **Paul J. Lessard** has recently turned his pen toward the subject of long-time friend and mentor, Yogi Yarborough, in his latest book, *A Measure Of My Heart*. Yarborough, whose battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis—ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease—ended with his death in 2006, is the focus of Lessard's spiritual reflections on the nature of adversity and the importance of focusing on the core values that he believes really matter in life, among them *friendship and courage*, and maybe most importantly, *giving*.

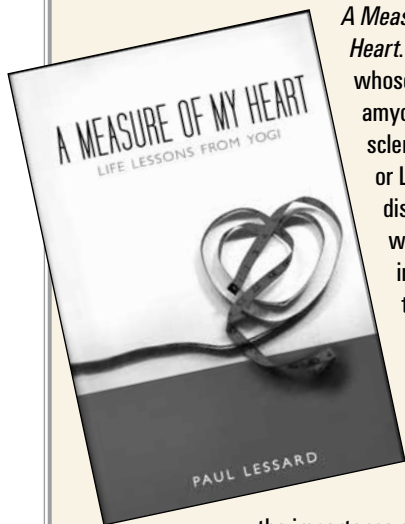
Lessard, who was awarded the medal for his April 16, 1993, actions in High Point, N.C., in behalf of a 62-year-old woman in danger of drowning, embodies those values, having given the full measure of himself when called upon. Beyond that, in his efforts as the founder of the nonprofit Lighthouse Project, its inception seeded with his Carnegie award grant, Lessard has worked tirelessly over more than 20 years to bring nationally known motivational speakers to local schools in Guilford County, N.C. Professionally, Lessard is the founding president of the High Point Community Foundation.

In his brief but deeply personal book, Lessard carries his message of giving further by expounding upon the life lessons he himself received



*Mr. Lessard*

from his friendship with Yarborough. The book, at its close, allows the reader to recognize not just Yarborough's contribution to the world, but Lessard's as well, and to come away inspired after having met two men who truly made a difference. Proceeds from the book, released in January and available on Amazon, will go toward funding ALS research and the Lighthouse Project.—*Jeffrey A. Dooley, Investigations Manager*



## Heroes' stories continue past their acts, as each life touches so many others

By Traci E. Langston  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Noah V. Langston saved Delilah E. Arnold from drowning, Sperry, Oklahoma, June 2, 1922. While wading and trying to swim in Bird Creek, Delilah, 14, got into water eight feet deep. Clinging to a companion, who was a poor swimmer, she moved farther from wadable water. A man swam to her, but she grabbed him at the neck and he could not swim with her. Langston, 21, a real estate salesman, then swam to them and separated them, freeing the other man to return to wadable water. Delilah grabbed Langston's necktie, and the necktie choked him somewhat. Langston went under the surface once or twice, and in his efforts to get his breath, he swallowed some water. Langston then swam 18 feet with Delilah holding to the necktie, and as he got within reach of wadable water, he became unconscious. A boy standing in wadable water took Delilah out and then got hold of Langston and carried him to the bank. He was revived.



*Mr. Langston*

That is what it says in the files of the Carnegie Hero Fund, but is that the entire story? Not at all. As Clarence the angel says in the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, "Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole."

**Noah V. Langston** was born in 1900, one of 10 children in a mixed-race farming family living in rural Arkansas; the family spoke both English and Cherokee. At a young age, Noah moved with his family to Oklahoma, where, as a young man, he decided there must be more to life than the farm. He left for the city and worked at several jobs, including as insurance salesman for such companies as Home State Life Insurance. He did well in his work despite many challenges—and the Great Depression—and won awards for his sales. He even married the boss's daughter at one of his jobs and began a family. A member of the Masonic Lodge and a Shriner, he had a full life.



*Noah and Bernice Langston, with children Nita and Don*

When he received his Carnegie award in 1926, Noah had the Hero Fund hold its

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## Heroes' stories continue

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Langstons' grave in Dallas, Texas

A few years later, Don found himself in Phoenix, Ariz., on staff at a few hospitals and in a group practice. He helped to set up neo-natal care units for premature babies and assisted with air evacuation of babies in distress from rural areas. He saved many children who might not have made it without him, including a child who was choking in a restaurant.

Noah was my grandfather. Don was my father, and the nurse he married was my mother. If Noah hadn't saved Delilah, he wouldn't have been able to help his son become the doctor who in turn saved hundreds more. If Don hadn't been a doctor, he wouldn't have met my mother, and I wouldn't be here.


One life does touch so many others. Every action affects so much. Heroes' stories continue far beyond their heroic acts. 

## Carnegie Medal awardee mural

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Tomasetti was a 42-year-old married father of two sons when he stepped up as a hero in the city on Sept. 9, 1952. He was working as a waterline maintenance employee when sand fell from the walls in a 13-foot-deep excavation, burying a 38-year-old male coworker. Tomasetti jumped into the excavation and scrambled to free the man with his hands and a shovel for an hour and a half. Small slides continued as Tomasetti made progress. At one point, Tomasetti became covered to his shoulders in sand while trying to shield the man from more debris. Ultimately, both the man and Tomasetti separately were pulled to the surface after Tomasetti freed them. The man spent four days in a hospital, while Tomasetti recovered from fatigue.

Another of Tomasetti's grandchildren, Laurie Rebovich of Eynon, Pa., said she remembers as a child writing a report about his heroism. Tomasetti had to be prompted to talk about the incident before his death in 1973, but he was willing to do so when it came up in conversation, she said. "I remember him saying he did what any other man would have done," said Rebovich, who has had his medal since the 1980s.

Tomasetti's example also lives on in the family tree. Rebovich said that her grandfather's story left an impression on her son, John, who became a firefighter and emergency medical technician. Tomasetti's family is thrilled, she said, that the mural is helping to spread his story again. "The ceremony was outstanding," Rebovich said. "It brought tears to my eyes because it's not often in your life that you have someone in your family who's a true hero."  —Chris Foreman, Case Investigator

## RADIO HOST QUERIES AWARDEES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HEROIC?

By Mike Slater

Radio Station KFMB, San Diego, Calif.

*We're all so confused about what's right and wrong, what we value, and what we consider heroic and what we consider important. And we've actually lost confidence in the truth and in who we are.*

I host a local radio show in San Diego, Calif., on 760 KFMB. A few weeks ago, I came across that quote from Korie Robertson (yes, from Duck Dynasty). It got me thinking, "What do we value? What do we consider important? What is heroic?"

"Hero" is a word thrown around often, but I rarely hear stories of people doing things worthy of that title. I'm so grateful I came across the Carnegie Hero Fund, a treasure trove of stories that help us all answer those questions.

A common theme from the people we've talked to so far has been "preparation." Each person had a lifetime of preparation for that one moment they were called into action. **Isaac G. Pinsonneault** didn't know that his years' swimming in the lake would prepare him to rescue Joshua Martin. **Brian Wargo** didn't know that his years as a deep sea fisher would prepare him to fight off a shark attacking his friend. **William Ayotte** didn't realize at the time that he would jump to attention and save Erin Greene from a polar bear attack.

It's inspiring because *you* are doing something in your life that is building experience. It's exciting because maybe one day you'll discover exactly what *you* are preparing for. Please join us every Tuesday at noon Pacific Time as we talk to a recipient of the Carnegie Medal.

Thank you, Carnegie Medal recipients, for not only saving lives, but for helping us all answer the question, "What does it mean to be heroic?"





## LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 24 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,821 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON DEC. 17, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG](http://WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG). THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON MARCH 24.

University of Scranton (Pa.) freshmen **Cesar Andy Garcia** of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., and **Michael Thomas Frawley** of Hamburg, N.Y., saved Robert Kehoe III, 9, and attempted to save his father, Robert Kehoe, Jr., 29, from drowning in Roaring Brook in Scranton on Nov. 23, 2014. Robert fell from a rock ledge into a deep pool at the base of a waterfall and struggled to stay afloat in the 38-degree water. His father jumped in after him, but he too struggled. Garcia and Frawley, both 18, who were in another party nearby, went to a rock at the edge of the pool about 20 feet above the water. Garcia jumped feet first into the pool, swam to the boy, and then swam toward where Kehoe was struggling. Frawley also jumped into the pool, for Kehoe, but Kehoe then submerged. Frawley took Robert from Garcia, allowing Garcia to make his way to the edge of the water, where he rested. With Robert, Frawley swam to an accessible point on the bank and left the water, soon joined by Garcia. In falling darkness, they were removed from the scene by first responders and then taken to the hospital for treatment, Garcia and Frawley suffering from cold exposure. Robert's father drowned.

**Dennis C. Hunke II**, a 51-year-old carpenter from Plainfield, Ill., died after attempting to rescue a woman from an out-of-control vehicle in Aurora, Ill., on October 8, 2014. An 84-year-old woman left the driver's seat of a minivan after a minor accident on a residential street. When the minivan continued to reverse, she re-entered, but the vehicle proceeded quickly and erratically



*"When someone is in need of help, I just help." That was Helen Goulet's rationale for entering her friend's burning home in Courtenay, B.C., finding the friend in dense smoke, and dragging her outside to safety. She is shown minutes after the rescue being attended by first responders. Photo provided as a courtesy by CTV News Vancouver Island, B.C.*

off the street and through the front yards of two properties. Standing at another property across the street, Hunke witnessed the accident and ran to the open driver's door of the minivan as it was moving back onto the roadway. Running alongside the vehicle, he attempted to enter it to arrest it. The van accelerated quickly again, and the inside of the driver's door struck Hunke, knocking him to the pavement, badly injured. The van came to a stop on the opposite side of the street. Hunke was taken to the hospital, where he died two days later of blunt force trauma.

**Helen Goulet** of Courtenay, B.C., rescued her friend Rose E. Downing, 89, from a burning house in Courtenay on Jan. 25 last year. Downing was in her one-story house after fire broke out in the living room and filled the structure with dense smoke. Goulet, 72, a retired cashier, was in the attached garage, which was at one end of the structure. Hearing a scream, she went outside

and saw smoke issuing from the living room area, which was at the other end. Goulet entered the house's back door and was confronted by intense heat and a wall of black smoke. She closed her eyes and held her breath as she followed the sound of moaning about 12 feet through the kitchen toward the fire. Goulet found Downing on the floor at the entrance to the open living and dining area. She grasped Downing by the arms and dragged her to the back door and outside to safety. Both women required hospital treatment, Goulet suffering smoke inhalation.

The **Gary Olson Family** of Jefferson, S.D. rescued a woman from assault in North Sioux City, S.D., on May 10, 2014. The 38-year-old woman, who was being threatened with a gun by her husband, walked from a parking lot onto the adjacent highway and waved her arms. Inside the sedan that immediately stopped were Gary Olson, 64, an off-duty deputy sheriff transporter; his wife, Mary, 54, a medical biller, who was driving; and their daughter, Shelby, 20, a college student, who was in the back seat. The woman told them that the assailant was going to kill her. Shelby opened a back door for the woman, who then entered the car as Gary stepped from it. The assailant drove up and pointed the gun at the woman. When Gary approached him and showed his deputy's badge, the assailant pointed the gun at him. Gary told Mary to drive off, and she did so, leaving

*(continued on page 9)*



*Mr. Garcia*



*Mr. Hunke*



*Mr. Hoffman*



*Mr. Campanella*



## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 8)

him with the assailant. The assailant pursued the three women in his vehicle, the high-speed chase going through a residential neighborhood before both vehicles entered an interstate highway and reached speeds of 100 m.p.h. During the pursuit, the assailant shot at the car repeatedly, one bullet striking Shelby. Police joined in the pursuit, and Mary exited the interstate at the scene, having made a five-mile loop. The assailant was found inside his vehicle, dead of self-inflicted gunshot. Shelby recovered from her wound.

**Peter Todd Radke**, 43, of Medina, Ohio, died attempting to save Angel Rodgers, 16, from drowning in Lake Erie at Bay Village, Ohio, on May 31, 2014. Angel was in wadable water not far off the beach when she was struck by a wave and pulled farther out. Rescue attempts were made by those at the scene, but rough water conditions, including four-foot-high waves, thwarted their efforts. Radke, a social media specialist, was in another party at the scene. He entered the 61-degree water and swam to Angel,



Mr. Myers



Mr. Burkhardt



Mr. Tranel



Mr. Simonson

reaching her at a point about 225 feet from shore. He grasped Angel and pushed her away from the rocks of a nearby jetty, but they were separated and submerged by a wave. Angel resurfaced and was carried away by the current; she was rescued by first responders. Radke also resurfaced but was then struck by another wave and submerged again. He was removed from the lake about three hours later; he had drowned.

**Wayne L. Hoffman** of Spring Green, Wis., died attempting to save Evan A. Johnson, 40, from drowning in Lake Superior at Tofte, Minn., on Dec. 23, 2014. Johnson called for help after entering the frigid lake from a rock ledge about

six feet above the surface of the water. Walking nearby, Hoffman, 66, a technical services director, responded to the ledge. Although five-foot waves were crashing against the shoreline and onto the ledge, he lay on the ledge and reached for Johnson but was pulled into the water. He and Johnson drifted from shore together as those responding to the scene repeatedly threw a life ring toward them. Separated, both men then floated face down in the water, the waves carrying Johnson back to shore at a point about 3,500 feet from where he entered. He was pulled from the lake but could not be revived. Hoffman was recovered from the lake by the Coast Guard about seven hours later. He too had drowned.

**Michael Campanella**, 40, a general contractor from Clifton Park, N.Y., and **Adam Matthew Myers**, 21, a graduate student from Ballston Spa, N.Y., rescued a man from a burning car in Clifton Park on Aug. 8, 2014. The 54-year-old man remained in the driver's seat of a station wagon that was aflame on the inside after the vehicle left the roadway and came to rest in mud at the edge of a pond. Campanella and Myers witnessed the accident and, at the scene, found flames virtually filling the car's passenger compartment, spreading toward its front end, and issuing from the window of the driver's door. After the man was removed through the driver's door to the mud beside the vehicle, Campanella and Myers, each grasping a wrist, dragged him a short distance to the pond. As Myers used mud and water to extinguish flames on the driver's body and clothing, Campanella left for a bucket. Upon returning, he found that the driver was attempting to re-enter the burning vehicle, the inside of which was fully engulfed by flame. Campanella pushed him to the mud. Medics at the scene treated Campanella and Myers each for minor burns to a hand.

**Kevin Michael O'Connor**, 40, a librarian from Ottawa, Ill., saved a man from drowning in the Fox River at Geneva, Ill., on April 19, 2014. While kayaking, the man went over a low-head dam and was carried downstream by the swift current. O'Connor was in a park on the bank of the river

(continued on page 10)



In addition to the Hero Fund's Carnegie Medal, Jon Christopher Meis was cited by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation with the Citizen Service Before Self award, given on National Medal of Honor Day at Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D.C. Meis was recognized by both organizations for thwarting a gunman who had entered a building on the campus of Seattle (Wash.) Pacific University, where Meis was a student. Holding his citation at left is Harold A. Fritz, 1971 Medal of Honor awardee, and placing the foundation's award on Meis is Patrick H. Brady, a 1968 awardee. Both Fritz and Brady were cited for valor in combat in Vietnam. Photo courtesy of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

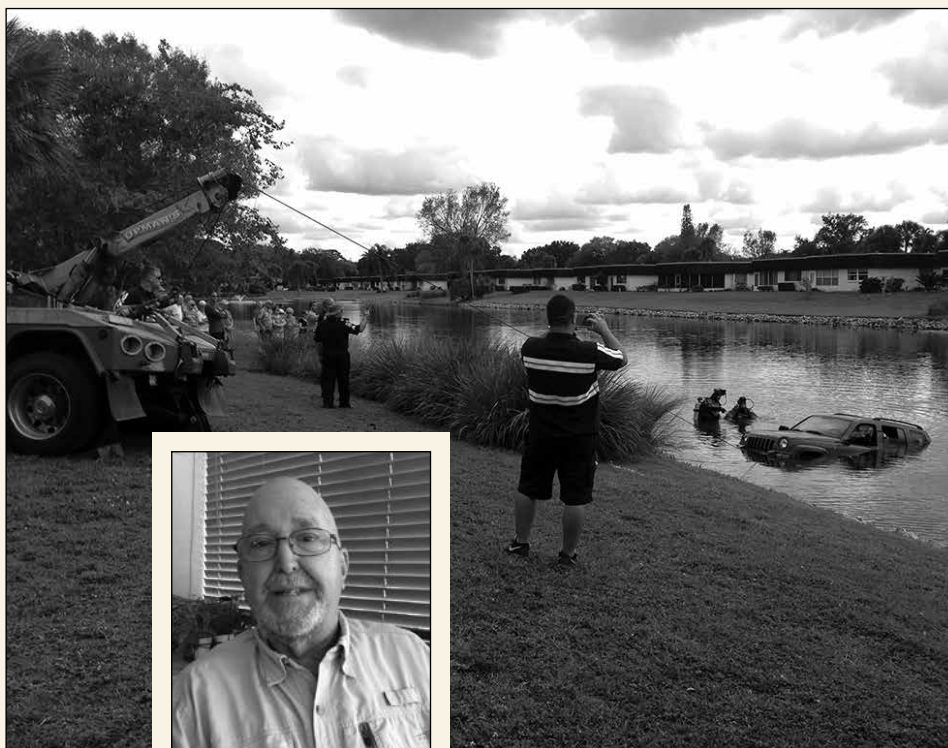


## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 9)

downstream of the dam when he was alerted to the situation. He entered the 49-degree water and waded out to look for the man, having to go beneath a low bridge that blocked his view downstream. Clearing the bridge, he saw a life jacket being swept downstream about 150 feet ahead of him and then swam to it. Finding that the life jacket was attached loosely to the man, who was submerged, O'Connor lifted the man's head to the surface of the water, grasped him under the arms, and swam him toward the bank, en route attempting to get him to breathe. Those at the bank assisted in pulling the man from the water, and O'Connor exited to safety also.

Dentist **Laurence T. Norton III** of New Orleans, La., rescued a woman from assault by a man armed with a knife in New Orleans on Oct. 27, 2014. The 38-year-old woman screamed when a man with a large kitchen knife began stabbing her repeatedly in the parking lot of an office building. Alerted to the attack, Norton, 47, whose office was in the building, responded, approaching the assailant from behind. He grasped the assailant's shoulders and pulled him away from the woman. The assailant then knocked Norton to the pavement, dropping the knife as he too fell. As both the assailant and Norton were starting to regain their footing, the assailant pushed Norton to the pavement again and then fled from the scene. Norton assisted the woman into his office



*Clifford A. Wright, 72, a retired electrician living in Sarasota, Fla., took an unexpected dip on Jan. 13, 2015, when he entered a pond near his home to rescue occupants of a sport utility vehicle that was submerging in deep water about 23 feet from the bank. The vehicle is shown being removed after the successful rescue. The larger photo is courtesy of the Sarasota Police Dept.*

and guarded the door against any return of the assailant. Norton sustained scrapes to his arms and knees but did not need medical attention.

Toronto, Ont., police officer **Clifford W. J. Peterson**, 40, of Ajax, Ont., helped to keep a man from falling from a bridge abutment in Toronto on

Dec. 8, 2013. At night, the distressed man, 26, sat atop the abutment at its outside edge, at a point about 100 feet above the floor of a wooded valley. On being alerted, Peterson and his partner responded to the bridge deck. As the concrete abutment was six feet across and its top five feet above the level of the deck, Peterson boosted himself up to the top of the abutment, which was covered with an inch of snow and ice. He lunged across it, grasped the man from behind, and, lying unsecured on his stomach, held the man against the outside face of the abutment. The man began to struggle, pulling Peterson partially off the abutment. Peterson's partner grasped Peterson by the legs and pulled on him as Peterson backed from the edge, dragging the man. The officers took the man to the deck and secured him.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer **Fraser A. Potts**, now of Limoges, Ont., helped to save a woman from drowning in the Fairford River at Fairford, Man., on May 10, 2013. After leaving her car, which had entered the river, the woman, 22, was carried downstream by the swift current. Potts, 28, who had responded to the scene with his partner, ran along the river after her, encouraging her to swim back to the bank, but she submerged as she continued downstream at about the center of the 300-foot-wide river. Despite the



*Peter Todd Radke of Medina, Ohio, the father of four, died at age 43 attempting to save a teen-aged girl from drowning in Lake Erie. He was eulogized by the governor of Ohio and by the state's general assembly, which concluded: "The laurels of his life stand in tribute not only to him but also to those he left behind." Radke is pictured with his wife, Michelle, and their children, from left: Hannah, Isaac, Owen, and Brynn.*

(continued on page 11)



## LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 10)

water's 37-degree temperature, Potts entered the river, swam to the woman, and grasped her. He attempted to swim with her back to the bank as they were carried farther downstream, but he had difficulty moving his legs, as hypothermia was taking its effect. Potts's partner and two other men reached them by boat at a point about a mile downstream from where the woman entered the river. By then, Potts and the woman were barely afloat, and Potts was almost completely immobilized. Those in the boat pulled them aboard and returned them to the bank. Both needed hospital treatment for hypothermia.

College student **Jon Christopher Meis**, 22, of Renton, Wash., saved an indeterminate number of people from assault by a gunman in Seattle, Wash., on June 5, 2014. A man armed with a 12-gauge shotgun entered the lobby of a university building after fatally wounding a man outside. He ordered those in the lobby not to move and then fired, striking a student in the arm. Meis was working as a security monitor in the building. When he saw the assailant reloading his gun, he approached him from behind with a container of pepper spray. He sprayed the assailant in the face and then grasped his gun and took it away from the immediate scene. Meis again approached the assailant and took him to the floor, the assailant removing a sheathed knife from his person. The knife dropped to the floor, and Meis directed another student to remove it from reach. Meis and the other student then secured the assailant until police arrived and arrested him.

**Steven A. Martin**, 39, a financial services associate from Northern Cambria, Pa., pulled Larina L. Hoppel, 36, from a burning car in Patton, Pa., on Sept. 6, 2014. The car that Hoppel was driving left the roadway, struck a wooden utility pole, and came to rest upright against the pole. The top of the pole broke off in the accident, taking down a 12,470-volt line, and fell between the car and the base of the pole. Fire broke out immediately inside the car, burning Hoppel, who was trapped in the



*Steven A. Martin of Northern Cambria, Pa., did not let a downed 12,470-volt line stop him from rescuing the driver of an automobile that crashed into—and broke off—a utility pole. "I could barely see her because of the glow," Martin told a reporter. "It looked like it does in a welding factory, how bright." The driver survived with third-degree burns and much appreciation for her rescuer: "There was no way I could have gotten out of the car. Trust me."*

wreckage. Martin witnessed the accident. He ran to the driver's side of the car and touched it lightly to see if it was energized. Avoiding the downed line, he then grasped Hoppel, who was reaching through the broken windshield, and pulled on her, but without success. With Hoppel then grasping Martin around his neck, he moved backward, pulling her from the vehicle. Flames grew on the car to engulf it, the downed lines sparking and popping.

**Neil C. Burkhardt**, 32, a health systems specialist from Portland, Ore., rescued Allen H. Bricker, 45, from an armed assailant in Vancouver, Wash., on Feb. 4, 2014. Bricker was at work in a suite in an office building when a woman entered the premises and at close range fired a .38-caliber revolver three times at him, striking him twice in the back. The assailant followed Bricker as he fled through a hall. Burkhardt was in a room at the end of the hall when he heard the shots. Seeing

the assailant pursuing Bricker, Burkhardt ran after her and tackled her, taking them through an interior window in the hall as Bricker escaped to another part of the floor and collapsed. Burkhardt restrained the assailant until he secured possession of her gun, and then he held her at gunpoint until a security officer arrived and handcuffed her. Burkhardt required overnight hospitalization for treatment, including surgery, of wounds to his right hand.

**Matthew L. Tranel** and **Cory Alan Simonson**, both of Maquoketa, Iowa, saved Harvey L. Untiedt, 48, from his burning house in Maquoketa on Dec. 14, 2014. Confined to a wheelchair, Untiedt was in his one-story house when fire broke out in the living room. Blocked by deteriorating conditions from exiting the house by way of the front door, he attempted to move toward a side door, but a wheel that then malfunctioned on the chair stranded him in the house as it filled with smoke. Tranel, 39, a loan officer, came upon the scene while responding to the fire station, followed shortly by Simonson, 29, a production worker. They entered the house through the side door, crawled across the kitchen through dense smoke, and found Untiedt. Discovering that the wheelchair was immobile, they maneuvered it through the kitchen to the side door, where others helped to remove Untiedt to safety.



Mr. Chaffin



Mr. Coleman



Ms. Fanelli



Mr. Driscoll

(continued on page 12)



### HE DIED FOR ANOTHER

**Lincoln J. Partridge** was 43 and the father of five when he lost his life in a tragic accident on Nov. 23, 1907. His death came just after he attempted to save a man from becoming caught in a saw at a portable mill on his father's property in Bristol, Maine, and, more than 108 years later, the account of his heroism is retold by his granddaughter, Elizabeth Prescott, 90, and her son, Robert Partridge Davidson, who live a half-mile from the scene of the heroic act.

On the day of his death, Partridge was working with an older brother, Fred, and another man, George D. Tarr, 62, a fisherman. Partridge was taking slabs of wood from a pile and handing them to his brother, who then fed them into the saw, which had a blade three feet in diameter that was making 1,500 revolutions a minute. Tarr was removing the sawn wood when his coat became caught in the mechanism, and he screamed as the coat and a shirt were pulled from him. From the other side of the saw, Partridge reached over and made a grab for him but then fell across the blade. He was thrown clear, but, badly injured, died within moments. Tarr was unhurt.

*(continued on page 13)*



### LATEST AWARDEES

*(continued from page 11)*

Professional golfer **Joshua J. Gardner**, 36, of Calgary, Alta., saved a man from drowning in a golf course pond in Calgary on July 5, 2014. A man remained in the driver's seat of a sport utility vehicle after it left the roadway and entered the pond. Floating upright about 90 feet from the closer bank, the vehicle started to submerge. Gardner was on the course and witnessed the accident. Seeing that the driver of the vehicle was dazed and making no effort to leave it, he entered the pond fully clothed, swam to the vehicle, and, reaching through the partially opened window of the driver's door, opened it completely. He then released the man's safety belt. Confused, the man moved into the front passenger seat. Gardner entered the vehicle to his waist and grasped him. Pulling the man with him, Gardner backed through the window and then assumed a hold on the man and swam to the bank with him.

Retired electrician **Clifford A. Wright**, 72, of Sarasota, Fla., saved Patricia Cothorn, 82, and Gildo V. DiLoreto, 86, from drowning in a pond in Sarasota on Jan. 13 last year. Cothorn and DiLoreto were in the front seats of a vehicle that left the roadway, entered a pond, and started to sink in water about 12 feet deep at a point about 23 feet from the bank. Wright ran to the scene and entered the pond. He swam to the passenger side of the vehicle, water by then rushing into the car. Reaching through the window of the front door, he grasped Cothorn and pulled her out. She swam to the bank as Wright proceeded to the driver's side of the vehicle. He reached through the window of the driver's door, grasped DiLoreto, and pulled, keeping him at the surface of the water as the vehicle continued to sink, falling away from them. He then towed DiLoreto toward the bank, both of them submerging en route, and then assisted him from the water.

**Stuart Chaffin**, 45, an asset protection manager from St. Cloud, Fla., saved John K. Kristich, 50, from his burning car after an accident in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 22, 2014. Kristich's car burst into flame after colliding with a truck occupied by three men. He remained in the driver's seat as flames issued from the car's exposed engine area. Chaffin witnessed the accident, ran to the car, and found Kristich unresponsive and his driver's door jammed shut. He opened the rear door on that side of the car and entered. Despite flames starting to enter the passenger compartment, he climbed partially over the front seat, dislodged Kristich, and pulled him into the backseat area. Stepping from the car, Chaffin dragged Kristich to safety. Then seeing one of the men from the truck aflame, Chaffin held the man down in the median and patted out the fire on him, sustaining burns, up to third-degree, to his hands and legs.

**Boyce Coleman** died helping to save Stephen Jones from drowning in the Hudson River at Yonkers, N.Y., on Sept. 7, 2014, and **Jenna Fanelli** helped to save Stephen. Stephen, 5, was seen floating away from the bank of the river while at a municipal park. Alerted, Coleman, 43, a delivery driver from Yonkers, entered the river, swam to the boy, and attempted to return to the bank with him against a swift tidal current. Others were entering the water in rescue attempts, including Fanelli, 23, a recreational therapist from Elmsford, N.Y. Reaching them, Fanelli shouted for Coleman to give her the boy, as Coleman appeared to be struggling. Fanelli then swam toward the bank against the current, which carried them farther up the river. At the bank, she was helped in getting Stephen out of the water. Coleman continued to struggle, and he shortly submerged and was not seen alive again. A dive team later recovered his body.

**William J. Driscoll**, a mortgage broker from Middleboro, Mass., stopped a runaway vehicle containing Jeffrey W. Finch in Lakeville, Mass., on Sept. 15, 2014. Finch, 46, was driving a sport utility vehicle on a two-lane highway when the vehicle went into the opposing lane of traffic and continued, at a speed of about 45 m.p.h. Driscoll, 34, was driving a pickup truck behind Finch. Thinking that Finch was distracted, he sped to a point alongside his vehicle and saw that Finch was slumped over. As other vehicles were approaching in Finch's lane, Driscoll struck Finch's vehicle with his pickup, taking it off the highway to the shoulder and stopping it against the guide rail. Driscoll then exited his truck and entered Finch's vehicle and secured it. Finding Finch unresponsive, Driscoll attempted to revive him but was unsuccessful. Finch was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



# FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Ms. Darlington

**Elizabeth L. Darlington**, 87, of Columbia, S.C., died Jan. 2. She was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2006 for her actions of Oct. 12, 2005, by which she—at age 77—helped to save her brother-in-law from his burning house in Hickory, N.C. A retired interior designer, Darlington was a guest in the home when fire broke out at a propane heater in the den and threatened her brother-in-law. She and her sister—her twin—managed to drag him to safety. Darlington suffered first-degree burns but recovered. After receiving the award, she remained in contact with the Hero Fund, befriending and charming the staff.

**Joseph R. Sowers**, 96, of Kingston, Tenn., died Dec. 8. At age 23 in 1942, Sowers, then an automobile mechanic, saved an 8-year-old boy from drowning in the flooded Thornapple River in Hasting, Mich. The boy, unconscious, was submerged at a point about 40 feet from the bank when reached by Sowers, who had to dive for him. Sowers became numb and greatly fatigued while returning to the bank with the boy and had to be pulled in the last few feet by another man. For his heroic actions, Sowers was awarded

the medal in 1943. He went on to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II and then had a 50-year career in construction and construction management, retiring in 1998 from the Los Alamos (N.M.) National Laboratory.

**Marvin E. Panch**, 89, of Port Orange, Fla., died Dec. 31. One of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers, Panch was involved in a fiery crash at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 14, 1963, and was pulled to safety by fellow racers and other men, all five of whom received the medal. One of the rescuers, **DeWayne L. Lund**, took Panch's place in the Daytona 500 later that month and won, making him part of a legendary sports tale. Lund died in 1975.



Mr. Panch

## SECRETARY RETIRING



**Hans W. de Vries**, 12-year secretary of *Stichting Carnegie Heldenfonds*—the hero fund of the Netherlands—retired at the end of 2015. He started work for the Dutch fund in 2004 and presided over awarding ceremonies for hundreds of recipients of that fund's Carnegie Medal. Hans was deeply committed to the work of the fund and even though retired will always be a member of the Dutch "Carnegie Family," according to fund spokesman Bart Brands. His replacement is Jaap Sneep.

# OVERHEARD

**A hero is someone who is too afraid to run away.**—The sheriff investigating the case in which **Caleb Lee Martin**, Carnegie Medal nominee #87197, rescued a woman from assault.

**I don't smoke, but I really wanted a cigarette at that point.**—**Brian Melendrez**, Carnegie Medal nominee #87251, after helping to save a man from drowning.

**We aren't heroes. Just did what most people don't do.**—**Jerry L. Bentley**, Carnegie Medal nominee #87659, who helped to save a man from a burning vehicle.

**Officer Kelly and I were able to get him to shore without incident even though the ocean had a different agenda.**—**Natalie L. Gillespie**, Carnegie Medal nominee #87761, of the St. Augustine Beach (Fla.) Police Dept., who helped to save a man from drowning.

**You do what you do.**—**Helen Goulet**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9801, who saved a woman from her burning house.

**Some people may question the sanity, but someone has to do it.**—The sheriff commenting on the rescue actions of one of his deputies, **Kyler Truett**, Carnegie Medal nominee #87553, who helped to save two women from floodwaters.

## 15:13

(continued from page 12)

Almost a year later, Partridge was posthumously awarded a silver Carnegie Medal, which was given to his widow, Emma, along with a monthly grant to help her meet living expenses. The grant continued until Emma's death in 1925. The couple are buried in New Harbor (Maine) Cemetery; their grave stone is pictured. Partridge is pictured in the photo on page 12 as a young boy, shown beside his father, James W. Partridge. To the left of the father in the photo, which dates to the late 1860s, is Partridge's mother, Sarah. Partridge was the youngest of eight children.

**15:13** calls to mind those in the Hero Fund's 112-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Of the 9,821 medal awardees to date, 2,012, or 20.5% of the total, were recognized posthumously. **They are not forgotten.**



## PRESENTING

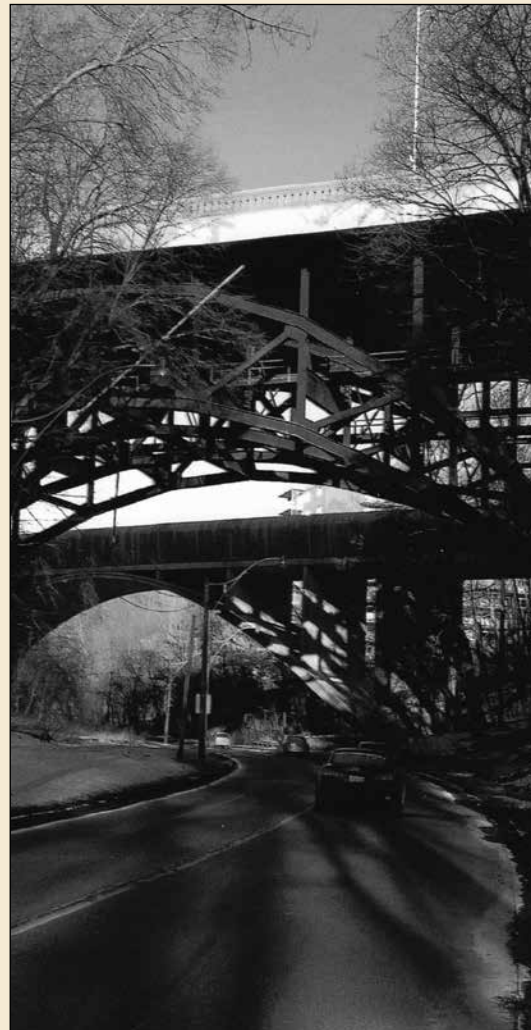


### CANADA'S NEWEST HEROES

**Liane Heather Wood**, an insurance broker; her husband, **Daniel Marvin Wood**, a pastor; **Clifford W. J. Peterson**, a police constable; and **Isaac G. Pinsonneault**, a college student (from left, above), all from Ontario, were given their Carnegie Medals in a private ceremony in Toronto, Ont., in mid-January by Carnegie Hero Fund Commission board member Nathalie Lemieux, right, and the Hero Fund's director of External Affairs, Douglas R. Chambers. Proud family members of the awardees were in attendance.

The four, diverse in age and occupation, testify that heroic acts are performed by all manner of individuals and are thus representative of the 759 awardees of the medal from throughout Canada during the Hero Fund's 112-year history. Lemieux herself is a native of Canada.

Isaac, a 16-year-old student at the time of his act, rescued a young man from the rough waters of Lake Huron in the summer of 2014. On a cold February night in 2013, the Woods entered the Trent River in Frankford, Ont., to save a 13-year-old girl from an overturned and partially submerged car. While on duty on Dec. 8, 2013, Peterson went above and beyond the call to keep a man from falling 100 feet from a bridge abutment to the floor of a wooded valley. The bridge is pictured.



### GOOD SAMARITAN



A year and a day after he was spared from dying in the cab of his overturned and burning tri-axle dump truck, Michael L. Wiant, left, stepped into the pulpit of Grace Community Church in rural Curllsville, Pa., and, in a breaking voice, publicly thanked God and his rescuer, **Charles E. Wyant**, center, for "a second chance at life." Wyant was given a Carnegie Medal in recognition of his Jan. 2, 2015, rescue, and Wiant presented it to him after the morning worship service. Nearly 100 members of the congregation and friends were in attendance.

An active member of the church, Wyant, an equine dentist from New Bethlehem, Pa., drove upon the scene of the accident, finding nine-foot flames issuing from the engine area of the truck, which lay on its passenger side. Then 39, he scaled the underside of the vehicle, grasped Wiant, who outweighed him significantly, and tugged, freeing Wiant through the window of the driver's door. Was it adrenaline? "I called out to God," Wyant said, "and he flew out."

The medal presentation held significance for **Terry E. George**, right, Wyant's neighbor, as George himself is a Carnegie Medal awardee. On Oct. 7, 2004, he and another man entered the burning remains of a house after a natural gas explosion and worked to free an 8-year-old girl who was trapped by debris in her bedroom. They fled with her moments before the house was engulfed by flame.

### GOOD NEIGHBOR

"I'm not a hero but I couldn't live with myself if I didn't try." **Gregorio V. Monge**, center, of San Bernardino, Calif., told that to a reporter after he was given his Carnegie Medal by San Bernardino Fire Chief Tom Hannemann, right, at a city council meeting in November. Monge was cited by the Hero Fund for entering his neighbor's burning ranch house at night on May 4, 2014, and pulling Jack D. Stine, 91, from the structure. Stine died at the scene, and Monge, then 35, suffered smoke inhalation that required treatment. Stine's widow, Dona, left, was on hand for the presentation. Photo courtesy of *San Bernardino Sun*.





## FROM THE ARCHIVES

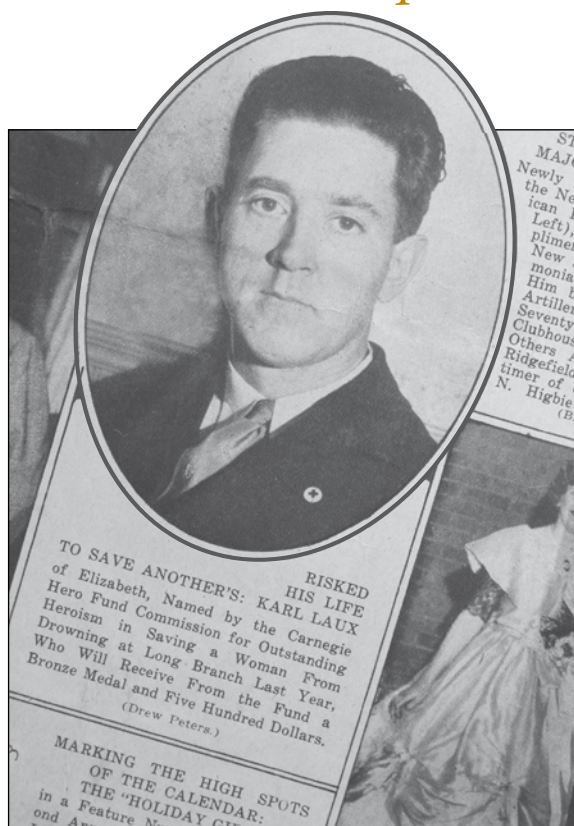
# Named a hero in U.S., made prisoner in Germany

If you do good, good things will come to you too.

That's the conclusion of Gudrun Laux-Vincq of Mezos, France, whose father, **Karl J. Laux**, was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1931 for saving a woman from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Long Branch, N.J., on Aug. 20, 1930. A native of Limburg, Germany, Laux, 27, was living in Elizabeth, N.J., at the time of his heroic act. He was single and working as a German-English stenographer in the offices of a manufacturing concern.

The Hero Fund's award certificate summarized his actions:

*While Ida Podell, 32, was wading in the ocean, she was pulled by a strong undercurrent into deep water. She tried to swim but drifted farther from land. Laux waded from shore and swam 250 feet through rough water and breakers five feet high to her. She took hold of his bathing suit, and he swam with great effort 150 feet to the outer end of a jetty that extended from shore. He was knocked against the jetty as a wave broke over it. He then towed Mrs. Podell to wadable water along the side of the jetty. A life preserver, to which a rope was attached, was tossed to her by men on the jetty, and she was pulled to shore. Laux waded to shore.*



News of Laux receiving the Carnegie Medal made it into the Dec. 6, 1931, issue of The New York Times.



Laux, circa 1968; cigarette obbligator

grated in 1931. They were married in 1935.

In requesting one of the Hero Fund's bronze markers for her father's grave—Laux died in 1984 and is buried in Wiesbaden, Germany—Laux-Vincq told the Hero Fund that her father would

be proud of the marker since he was always proud of his Carnegie Medal.

And then she related the following astounding account:

“My father received a very good offer to work in Cologne and decided to return back to Germany. I don't know exactly when, but unfortunately it was very bad timing because the war was going on. He became a prisoner of war of the Americans and stayed in Muenster.

“At an inspection or roll call of the prisoners, he was not fast enough for a guard who punched or pushed him into hurrying up. My father, a tall man at six-foot-two, shouted at him—of course in English—*Is this how you treat a person who is recognized a hero in the United States?! A nearby officer intervened, and my father showed him a copy of the Carnegie Hero Fund's award certificate which he always kept with him. The result was that my father was transferred to an interpreter company.*”

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Laux-Vincq knew something of her father's war years but she had not known how he ended up in the interpreter company. “At home,” she said, “we did not talk a lot about the war.” When her brother related the Carnegie certificate incident to her, “I thought it was typical for my father, who had a dry humor.”

The account serves, Laux-Vincq says, as “another proof of the very important work the Carnegie Commission is doing in recognizing outstanding individuals and their deeds.” Reading *imPULSE* “helps me not lose my mind when hearing about all of the terrible things going on in the world.”



Gudrun Laux-Vincq at her parents' grave in Wiesbaden, Germany.

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*imPULSE* is a periodic newsletter of the **CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION**, a private operating foundation established in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie. • The Hero Fund awards the **CARNEGIE MEDAL** to those throughout the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, which may include scholarship aid and continuing grants, to the heroes and to the dependents of those awardees who are disabled or die as the result of their heroic acts.

Further information is available on-line or by contacting the Commission.

**Any ideas?** *imPULSE* welcomes your submissions for publication, and your ideas for consideration. Be in touch!

**Address change?** Please keep us posted!

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## ✧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✧



*This is man's work on earth, one of development toward the more perfect day; nothing yet finished, but all growing better through his strenuous exertions. "Rest and be thankful" is for another existence.*

—From *Problems of To-day*, page 133

## ✧ CONTINUUM ✧

**GRAVE MARKERS** Bronze grave markers (below), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of deceased awardees. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials. Contact Susan Rizza ([susan@carnegiehero.org](mailto:susan@carnegiehero.org)) or write her at the address given below.

**MEDAL REFINISHING** The Hero Fund will refinish Carnegie Medals at no cost to the owner. The medals are to be sent to the Hero Fund's office by insured, registered mail. Allow a month for the process. The contact is Jo Braun ([jo@carnegiehero.org](mailto:jo@carnegiehero.org)).

**OBITUARIES** Written accounts of the awardee's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website. Contact Chris Foreman ([chris@carnegiehero.org](mailto:chris@carnegiehero.org)).

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2013-2014) are available by contacting Gloria Barber ([gloria@carnegiehero.org](mailto:gloria@carnegiehero.org)).

**A CENTURY OF HEROES** The centennial book describing the first 100 years of the Hero Fund is available through the Commission's website ([www.carnegiehero.org](http://www.carnegiehero.org)).

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